IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a user registry, comprising:

in a system containing a plurality of user registries, receiving a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on [[the]] a given user registry of said plurality of user registries; and

responsive to receiving [[the]] said registry-independent instruction, ~~executing~~ sending registry-dependent instructions to perform [[the]] said operation on [[the]] said given user registry.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within the user registry.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation includes reading data from the user registry.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

10. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a user registry, comprising:

receiving, in a registry adapter, a registry-independent instruction designed to perform an operation on a first registry;

translating said registry-independent instruction into a registry-dependent instruction for a user registry associated with said registry adapter and forwarding to said first registry.

~~issuing a registry-independent instruction to a registry adapter to perform an operation on the user registry; and~~

~~responsive to the registry adapter's executing registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the user registry, receiving a result of the operation.~~

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within the user registry.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the operation includes reading data from the user registry.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

19. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the result includes a completion status code.

20. (Currentlyamended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for accessing a user registry, comprising instructions for:

in a system containing a plurality of user registries, receiving a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on [[the]] a given user registry of said plurality of user registries; and

responsive to receiving [[the]] said registry-independent instruction, ~~executing~~ sending registry-dependent instructions to perform [[the]] said operation on [[the]] said given user registry.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within the user registry.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation includes reading data from the user registry.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

29. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for accessing a user registry, comprising instructions for:

receiving, in a registry adapter associated with a first registry, a registry-independent instruction designed to perform an operation on said first registry;

translating said registry-independent instruction into a registry-dependent instruction and sending said registry-dependent instruction to said fist registry.

~~issuing a registry-independent instruction to a registry adapter to perform an operation on the user registry; and~~

~~responsive to the registry adapter's executing registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the user registry, receiving a result of the operation.~~

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within the user registry.

33. (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein thc function call is to a method of an object class in an objcct-oriented programming language.

34. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation includes reading data from the user registry.

35. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation includes writing data to the user registry.

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in the registry.

37. (Original) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

38. (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the result includes a completion status code.

39. (Currently amended) A data processing system, comprising:

a bus system;

a plurality of user registries connected to said bus system;

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit includes at least one processor;

memory; and

a set of instructions in the memory, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of: receiving a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on a given user registry of said plurality of registries; and

responsive to receiving [[the]] said registry-independent instruction, ~~executing~~ sending registry-dependent instructions to perform [[the]] said operation on [[the]] said given user registry.

40. (Currently amendcd) A data processing system, comprising:

a bus system;

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit includes at least one processor;

a plurality of user registries connected to said bus system;

memory; and

a set of instructions in the memory, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of: issuing a rcgistry-independent instruction to a registry adapter to perform an operation on a given user registry of said plurality of user registries; and

responsive to the registry adapter's ~~executing~~ sending registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the user registry, receiving a result of the operation.